

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DG 16-447**

**LIBERTY UTILITIES (ENERGYNORTH NATURAL GAS) CORP.  
d/b/a LIBERTY UTILITIES**

**Managed Expansion Program Rate Case**

**Order Suspending Proposed Tariff and Scheduling Prehearing Conference**

**ORDER NO. 25,893**

**May 6, 2016**

In this Order, the Commission suspends a proposed Liberty tariff for Managed Expansion Program Rates to enable further investigation of the proposed tariff provisions.

On April 15, 2016, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (“Liberty”) filed tariffs for Managed Expansion Program Rates with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”). Liberty’s proposed new tariff would be available to all potential customers who require a main extension to initiate service. The tariff would add a premium to Liberty’s regular distribution rates for a period of years, in effect allowing a new customer to pay over time most or all of any required costs of construction for the main extension.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to: whether the proposed rates and tariffs are just and reasonable under RSA Chapter 378 and RSA 374:2; whether the proposal by Liberty will seek to foster orderly expansion of Liberty’s system, for the benefit of Liberty customers, and whether the tariff proposal properly guards against cross-subsidization.

Under RSA 378:3, tariff changes take effect after 30 days’ notice to the Commission and to the public, subject to the Commission’s ability to suspend such changes when an investigation

is appropriate, pursuant to RSA 378:6, I (b). Here, Liberty's proposed tariff provisions require further investigation, so we suspend the proposed tariff pages filed by Liberty pending our investigation for a period of 3 months, or until August 5, 2016, when the Commission may extend the suspension for 5 months if more time is needed, pursuant to RSA 378:6, I(b).

The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at <http://puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2016/16-447.html>. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

**Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby**

**ORDERED**, that the proposed tariff pages regarding main extensions filed by Liberty, are hereby suspended pursuant to RSA 378:6, I(b), through August 5, 2016, pending investigation and further order of the Commission; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on May 27, 2016, at 1:30 pm, at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, Liberty, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition and allow Liberty to provide any amendments or updates to its filing; and it is

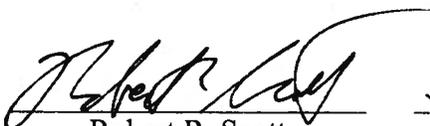
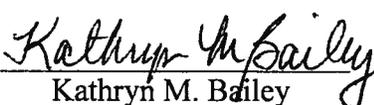
**FURTHER ORDERED**, that pursuant to Puc 203.12, Liberty shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order no later than May 13, 2016, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations

are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before May 25, 2016; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that consistent with Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to Liberty and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before May 25, 2016, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32, I(b); and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before May 27, 2016.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this sixth day of May, 2016.

 _____ Martin P. Honigberg Chairman	 _____ Robert R. Scott Commissioner	 _____ Kathryn M. Bailey Commissioner
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Attested by:

  
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Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director

**SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED**

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**Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.**

Executive.Director@puc.nh.gov  
al-azad.iqbal@puc.nh.gov  
alexander.speidel@puc.nh.gov  
amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov  
david.simek@libertyutilities.com  
karen.sinville@libertyutilities.com  
mark.naylor@puc.nh.gov  
maureen.karpf@libertyutilities.com  
michael.sheehan@libertyutilities.com  
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov  
paul.dexter@puc.nh.gov  
Stephen.Hall@libertyutilities.com  
steve.frink@puc.nh.gov  
steven.mullen@libertyutilities.com  
william.clark@libertyutilities.com

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**FILING INSTRUCTIONS:**

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:**
- DEBRA A HOWLAND  
EXEC DIRECTOR  
NHPUC  
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10  
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.**
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.**